

conveyance carriage assembly in a direction opposite to said forward path.

REMARKS AND DISCUSSION

Upon entry of the present Amendment, the claims in the application are claims 1 and 3-27, of which claims 1, 6 and 22 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 16 and 22 have been amended by the present amendment.

The above-identified Office Action has been reviewed, the references carefully considered, and the Examiner's comments carefully weighed. In view thereof, the present amendment is submitted. The applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original specification, including the drawings. The applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application. It is contended that by the present amendment, all bases of rejection set forth in the Office Action have been traversed and overcome. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

PCT Issue regarding Certified Copies of Priority Documents

Applicant notes for the record that on the Office Action Summary page of the Office Action dated 01/10/2007, the Examiner indicated that Certified copies of the priority documents have been received by the USPTO. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner affirm in the next Office Action that copies of the Certified copies of the priority documents have been received by the USPTO **from the International Bureau in this National Stage application**, since the present application is based on a PCT priority application.

Amendments to the Specification and Drawings

Applicant has made a number of minor changes to the specification by the present amendment, in order to correct clerical and typographical errors which were in the original

specification, and to remove certain unnecessary reference numbers.

Further, applicant has amended each of Figures 4, 15, 28 and 35 by the present amendment, to correctly identify reference number 79 in Figure 4, to extend the lead line for reference number 416 in Figure 15, to add reference numbers 1112 and 1110 with corresponding lead lines in Figure 28, and to add reference numbers 2122 and 2124 with corresponding lead lines in Figure 35. Replacement and Annotated drawings are enclosed herewith for each of these Figures.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

At item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-27 under 35 USC §112 as indefinite.

Applicant has amended claim 1 by the present amendment to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention, including some specific suggestions made by the Examiner. In addition, applicant has amended claims 6 and 22 to make each of these claims independent, and has also made changes to these claims, similar to the changes made to claim 1, in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

Claim 2 has been canceled by the present amendment.

Applicant respectfully submits that, as presently amended, each of claims 1 and 3-27 is sufficiently definite to meet, and is in full compliance with all of the requirements of 35 USC 112.

Applicant therefore requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3-27 under 35 USC 112.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

At item 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 USC §102(e) as

anticipated by either Kroll (US 6,554,127) or Bellezza (WO 2003/055774).

At item 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 4-5 under 35 USC §102(b) as anticipated by Herzog et al. (US 6,047,813).

Allowable Subject Matter

At item 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-3 and 6-27 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Amendments

In the present amendment, applicant has amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 2, which the Examiner indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant therefore requests allowance of claim 1 and all other claims which depend from claim 1.

Further, applicant has modified claims 6 and 22 so that each of these claims is now independent, including all of the limitations of original claim 1 as modified to comply with section 112. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the rejection has been overcome by the present amendment, and all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

For all the foregoing reasons, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 1 and 4-5 under 35 USC § 102(b) and (e).

Conclusion

Based on all of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that all of the rejections set forth in the Office Action are overcome, and that as presently amended, all of the pending claims are believed to be allowable over all of the references of record, whether considered singly or in any reasonable combination. The applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of record, and allowance of the pending claims.

The applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application, since all of the subject matter of the amendments was expressly or inherently disclosed by the specification as originally filed, including the claims and drawings. If the Examiner feels that any issues remain unresolved after entry of the present amendment, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephonically contact applicant's undersigned representative to expedite prosecution of the application.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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